

NEW YORK TIMES

28 OCT. 1981

ZAZ

Z11A070

R W CZCEEVCZC

7AM-DEFENSE

7CIR SAY B-52s CAN PENETRATE SOVIET AIR DEFENSES UNTIL 1990

7BY RICHARD HALLORAN

7C. 1981 N.Y Times News Service

WASHINGTON - The Central Intelligence Agency appeared Wednesday to have undercut the Reagan administration's case for building new long range B-1 bombers by telling a Senate subcommittee that existing B-52 bombers could penetrate Soviet air defenses until 1990.

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who heard the CIA testimony in closed session, said later in an open hearing that the agency's information would contribute to the "substantial conflict" in the Congress over the B-1.

Stevens, chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, favors shipping the B-1 in favor of building the "stealth" an advanced technology bomber designed to evade radar detection. He and his counterpart in the House, Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo, D-N.Y., contend that the United States does not need and cannot afford two new bomber fleets.

Addabbo, in a brief corridor interview, said "The B-1 should go into a museum and we should go ahead with the advanced technology bomber." Congressional officials said his subcommittee had also received the same information on Soviet air defenses from the CIA.

Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, who testified along with General David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before Stevens's subcommittee, seemed to be taken aback by Stevens's report on the CIA testimony.

He had just testified that the United States would have no capability of penetrating Soviet air defenses for the last five years of this decade without the B-1, which would be an advanced version of the bomber canceled by President Carter in 1977.

When Stevens unexpectedly disclosed the CIA estimate, Weinberger asserted that "I haven't seen any indication that the B-52 will be able to penetrate beyond mid-decade." He said he wanted to see the information on which the CIA estimate was based.

Page 1 of 3

## NEW YORK TIMES

IN HIS PREPARED TESTIMONY, WEINBERGER DISCLOSED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE BREAKDOWN ON AMOUNTS OF MONEY THE ADMINISTRATION PLANNED TO SPEND FOR THE PRESIDENT'S NEW \$180 BILLION, FIVE-PART PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE NATION'S STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

FULLY ONE-THIRD OF THAT SUM WOULD GO INTO BUILDING THE B-1 AND STEALTH BOMBERS; WITH THE B-1 PROGRAM COSTING \$20.5 BILLION FOR 100 PLANES, WEINBERGER SAID. THE BULK OF THE REMAINDER WOULD BE SPENT ON DEVELOPING THE STEALTH BomBER; WITH A SMALL AMOUNT GOING INTO AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES.

ANOTHER \$42 BILLION WOULD BE SPENT TO BUILD TRIDENT SUBMARINES AND TO ARM THEM WITH THE D-5 BALLISTICS MISSILES; WHICH WOULD BE MORE ACCURATE AND POWERFUL THAN THE CURRENT C-4 MISSILES. THE ELECTRIC BOAT CO., OF GROTON, CONN., OFFICIALLY TURNED OVER THE FIRST TRIDENT SUBMARINE, OHIO, TO THE NAVY WEDNESDAY. THE SHIP WAS SCHEDULED TO BE COMMISSIONED ON NOV. 11.

THE MX INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE PROGRAM, WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN THE MOST HEATEDLY DEBATED OF THE NEW PLAN, WOULD REQUIRE \$34 BILLION. WEINBERGER SAID WEDNESDAY THAT UP TO 50 OF THE NEW MISSILES MIGHT BE PLACED IN EXTRA-HARDENED SILOS; RATHER THAN THE 36 HE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED, BUT HE ALSO SAID THAT FEWER MIGHT GO INTO SILOS IF A BETTER BASE CAN BE DEVELOPED BEFORE 1984.

TO IMPROVE WARNING SYSTEMS; CONDUCT RESEARCH ON BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE; PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEM; AND TO EXPAND CIVIL DEFENSE, WEINBERGER SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD ASK FOR \$23 BILLION.

LAST IN COST BUT FIRST IN PRIORITY, THE ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO SPEND \$18 BILLION TO IMPROVE COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS THROUGH WHICH THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SENIOR SUBORDINATES CAN COMMUNICATE WITH THE FORCES ARMED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

JUST AS THE ISSUE OF THE SALE TO SAUDIS, OR AIRBORNE WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM; AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA APPEARED CLOSE TO RESOLUTION; THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE B-1 SEEMED TO BE ERUPTING IN THE CONGRESS.

Page 273

NEW YORK TIMES

STEVENS, DURING THE HEARING WEDNESDAY MORNING, CONTENDED THAT THE B-1 WAS "REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN A HEDGE" AGAINST THE DAY THAT THE STEALTH BOMBER CAME INTO OPERATION IN THE EARLY 1990S. HE ASSERTED THAT THE UNITED STATES, WITH ITS ADVANCED SPACE TECHNOLOGY, SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEVELOP THE STEALTH BOMBER WITHOUT SPENDING \$20 BILLION ON THE B-1.

WEINBERGER ARGUED THAT THE B-1 WAS NOT A HEDGE "BUT A COVER OVER A PERIOD WHEN WE CANNOT GUARANTEE PENETRATION" OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSES. HE MAINTAINED THAT A DATE FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE STEALTH BOMBER WAS NOT CERTAIN BECAUSE IT IS STILL IN THE DEVELOPMENT STAGE.

SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS AFTER THE HEARING, STEVENS ASSERTED THAT THE "DISCREPANCY" BETWEEN THE CIA AND WEINBERGER OVER THE ABILITY OF THE B-52 TO CONTINUE ITS CAPABILITY OF PENETRATING SOVIET DEFENSES WOULD FIGURE HEAVILY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE.

WHILE HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE CIA BRIEFING, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT HAD FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON SOVIET AIR DEFENSES RATHER THAN ON THE MERITS OF THE BOMBERS AND CONCLUDED THAT ADVANCES IN THOSE DEFENSES WOULD MAKE THE B-1 OBSOLETE ONLY A SHORT TIME AFTER THE B-52.

NYT-10-28-81 1904EST

Page 3 of 3